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HGO CTHE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

82-42014

OEXA-0150/E

February 17, 1982

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated February 9, 1982, concerning your desire to make public certain CIA reports in your possession.

Director of Central Intelligence Casey informs me that he instructed a group of senior officials within the CIA and Departments of State and Treasury to conduct a second declassification review of the documents at issue, after your respective staffs were unable to agree following an earlier declassification review. The Director informed you on February 11, 1982, of the results of this second review, which identifies additional portions of these reports that may be declassified.

However, based both on the reasons cited in the Director's letter to you and its attachments and on the advice of my immediate staff who have reviewed this matter, I object to the disclosure of that information identified by the Director as requiring classification in the interest of national security. I certify that the disclosure of this information would be likely to cause grave injury to our foreign relations or would compromise sources and methods of intelligence gathering. Further, the public interest in avoiding such injury outweighs any public interest served by disclosure.

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I want to stress, however, that this determination in no way restricts the subcommittee's current, complete access to the full texts of these reports. This access certainly should permit pursuit of any legislation that may, in your view, be suggested by your inquiry. Disclosure of the deletions from these reports would only serve to damage the same public interest that such legislation would seek to advance.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

The Honorable Benjamin S. Rosenthal
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Consumer and Monetary Affairs
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

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